(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated the 9th January, 2001 under the caption 'Talk about IT, IIT, IIIT and the like', highlighting lack of standards and misleading identities of the similarly named Government / private / foreign institutes offering training in information technology; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of any proposal to scrutinise the mushrooming growth of the infotech institutes, to grade them according to the quality of courses offered by them and to weed out the sub-standard and fly-by-night institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware of the fact that a number of private educational institutions in the country have been prefixing the words 'Indian Institute' / 'National Institute'. This is prohibited under the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 since this gives an impression of the patronage of the Central Government. The competent authority has been approached to initiate action under this Act and not to register a new society or a company with these names and advise the companies or societies already registered with those names to change their names.

Vacant posts in secondary schools of Uttar Pradesh

†2146. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of posts of Lecturers and Principals lying vacant in secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether instructions have been issued to the State Government to fill up these posts; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.